

Pre-IB English 9
Summer Reading 2009

Hello Pre-IB English 9 students!

Pre-IB English 9 promises to be a rigorous yet rewarding course. We hope you are looking forward to next year as much as we are. To prepare you for the course we would like you to complete the following summer reading assignments:

1. **Read *Ender's Game*.** You will be working with this text in class so having your own copy is preferable. Any edition of the novel is fine.
2. **Select a book of your choice to read from the Summer Reading database**
3. **Answer one of the following essay prompts, using *Ender's Game* and the free-choice you made.** The prompts are modified IB Exam release questions and should be answered in 2 or 3 pages. Have your responses ready to hand in on August, 31st, the first day of school.
 - Say what the titles of the books you read indicated to you at the outset (i.e., before you even read a page). In what ways were your first impressions of the novels reinforced or altered as you read each novel?
 - "Great is the art of beginning, but greater is the art of ending." Using the two novels you read, discuss the above statement.
 - "Traditionally, the hero somehow represents the community and carries with him its hopes and fears." Consider to what extent and to what effect this statement is true for the novels you read.
4. **Complete the short writing assignment for your free-choice book**

Required Materials for 2009-2010:

- Colored pencils
- Notebook for notes, etc

Optional Materials for 2009-2010:

- A good grammar reference. I suggest *Woe is I: The Grammarphobe's Guide to Better English in Plain English*. *Eats, Shoots and Leaves: The Zero Tolerance Approach to Punctuation* is also good.
- Your own copies of the books you'll be reading next year. It is helpful to have your own copies to annotate and work with, particularly when we start mimicking IB diploma assignments. The texts we'll work with next year are *Ender's Game* (Orson Scott Card), *Of Mice and Men* (John Steinbeck), *To Kill a Mockingbird* (Harper Lee), *Antigone* (Sophocles), *Lord of the Flies* (William Golding), *Romeo and Juliet* (William Shakespeare), *The Alchemist* (Paulo Coelho).

Enjoy your summer and take the time to do things you won't have time for once school starts again. The upcoming year will be a challenging one, but also rewarding and beneficial and, maybe at times, fun. Enjoy your summer assignments, take the time to do them well and if you have any questions or comments during the summer please don't hesitate to email us at Kathryn_E_Peluso@mcpsmd.org or Leayne_C_Freeman@mcpsmd.org.

Sincerely,

Kathryn Peluso and Leayne Freeman
Pre-IB English 9